RECEIVED OCT 7 1912 FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE

Juneau, Alaska Sept. 26,1912.

Mr. Harvey C. Olin,Treasurer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Olin:-

The Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Alaska has just completed its visitation to our mission fields lying west of Juneau. Last June and July we visited all of the fields lying south and north of Juneau. Owing to the absence of the minister in charge at Hoonah,also Kake(our newly acquired field),and owing to the fact that the Sheldon Jackson School was practically closed for the vacation season we did not then visit these fields but were obliged to postpone our visit until this September. We have now visited these mission stations and have given them very close inspection and will in due time report our findings to the Board of Home Missions. I went from here to Hoonah on our mission boat "Tornado" so for that trip incurred no expense to the Board. At Hoonah I joined the Rev. Mr. Waggoner and took the good boat "Lois" for Sitka and from Sitka to Kake,and as it was cheaper for the Board to have Mr. Waggoner to take me to Petersburg rather than to Juneau from Kake ,I went to Petersburg and there took the regular steamer for Juneau at a cost of five dollars($5.). This is the claim which I have on your treasury. While at Petersburg we held services and encouraged the good people there to be patient and they would soon have a minister to care for them. I am very happy to hear that a minister is in sight for Petersburg.

You will find enclosed a document that will explain itself. Last summer the Board of H.M.,authorized me to acquire a certain property of a Mrs. Baronovich in Kasaan. This I have done and have this day

sent her the purchase price sixty dollars($60.). The enclosed letter of Brother Marsden explains why a quitclaim deed was not made out. In order to do this mrs. Baronovich would have to travel to Ketchikan and then employ a notary if not a lawyer to put it in shape. This would eat up the price paid her for the property. There is no question but what the enclosed document witnessed by Brothers Marsden and Eaton will answer. You will kindly reimburse me for the money advanced($60.) to Mrs. Baronovich. When I receive her acknowledgement I will mail it to you.

The Board also authorized that one hundred dollars be expended to put the Baronovich house in shape for the occupancy of the missionary in charge at Kasaan and two hundred dollars for material with which to build a place for worship at Loring. I have asked Mr. Marsden to get the material for these purposes and send the bills to me. Now as it would prove a little burdensome for me to advance the three hundred will you not kindly send this amount to me and when I get Mr. Marsden's receipted bills I will forwarded them to you as vouchers for the money expended.

With warmest personal regards and hoping that you are enjoying the best of health, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Jones

October 9th, 1912.

Hon. Royal A. Gunnison,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose copy of a paper signed by Mrs. Lelah Baronovich conveying her right and title to a certain piece of land in Kasaan, Alaska. The ordinary quit-claim deed was not made out for the reason that Mrs. Baronovich would have to travel to Ketchikan to employ a Notary, if not a lawyer, to put the matter in shape. This procedure would cause her to pay out the larger part, if not all, the price paid her for the property. We have been advised by our missionary, Rev. L. F. Jones, that this document will answer as a legal conveyance, which will be recognized by the Courts.

I am submitting the matter to you, with the request that you advise me if, in your opinion, the paper in question is sufficient to vest an undisputed title to the property in this Board.

Yours sincerely,

Treasurer.

B/H

(Enclosure)

October 10th, 1912.

Rev. L.F. Jones,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Jones:-

I have received your letter of the 26th ult., in which you report further inspection of the Home Mission fields on behalf of the Home Mission Committee of Alaska Presbytery, and your enclosure of the paper signed by Mrs. Lelah Baronovich, in which she acknowledges the receipt of $60.00 paid to her by you, and conveying to you for the Board, her lot 50 feet front by 100 feet deep, together with the two room one story cottage with two adjoining sheds erected thereon.

In addition to the above you also ask the remittance of the $100.00 granted by the Board for repairing the Baronovich house for the occupancy of the missionary in charge at Kasaan and for the $200.00 granted for material with which to build a house of worship at Loring.

In accordance with the above, I take pleasure in enclosing check to your order for $365.00, covering the above items.

Regarding the document signed by Mrs. Baronovich. I have forwarded a copy of it to Judge Gunnison at Juneau, requesting him to advise me if, in his opinion, the title conveyed through the paper in question, vests a clear and undisputed title thereto in this Board. It seems to me that the document signed should have acknowledged the receipt of the money direct from the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, per yourself, so that there would be no question as to the owner of the property. What kind of title did Mrs. Baronovich have to the property just conveyed? Also, advise me if there is not prospect at some time in the near future for the opportunity to execute a formal quit-claim deed. Is there not a Justice o the Peace or some official recognized by the law as competent to take acknowledgement of deeds etc., located near Kasaan?

I would suggest that you seek an early opportunity to confer with Judge Gunnison on this matter, and then, if he feels it would be wise to secure a more formal document in connection with the sale of the above plot of ground, that the same be followed.

Rev. L. F. Jones, 2.

You mentioned in your letter that when you received Mrs. Baronovich's acknowledgement you would mail it to me. This receipt should read as having received the amount from the Board per your hand. This suggestion of course, is made upon the supposition that you have not as yet sent her a formal receipt to sign.

Very sincerely yours,

Treasurer.

B/H

(Enclosure)

CODES:
BEDFORD-McNEIL
A. B. C.

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
JOHN B. MARSHALL

GUNNISON & MARSHALL

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Oct. 18th, 1912.

Dr. H. C. Olin, Treas.,
Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York.

In re: Baronovich Instrument.

Dear sir:-

Your letter of Oct. 9th came to hand this morning with the enclosed copy of a paper purporting to convey to Rev. L. F. Jones, for the Board of Home Missions, a house and lot at Kasaan, Alaska.

You ask me to advise you "if in my opinion the paper in question is sufficient to vest an undisputed title to the property in this Board." My answer to that is, it may be, so far as the possessory title is concerned. As I understand the fact to be, the residents in and about Kasaan donot hold the fee to the ground, This is still in the United States, no patents having been issued. Consequently, this probably conveys at most only the interest of the signer of the instrument. Whether or not her husband is living or not does not appear. I assume that he is not, else he would have signed the instrument. I should say, that considering the amount paid and the place where the property is located that the instrument would vest in the Board or in Mr. Jones for the Board, as a good title as against all persons except the United States.

I assume that this has not yet been recorded. If not, I should suggest that you send it to E.S. Stackpole, U.S.District Recorder at Ketchikan, Alaska, for recording.

Yours truly,

RAG/BFB

GUNNISON & ~~MARSHALL~~,

Per Royal A. Gunnison

Klasaan

November 4th, 1912.

E. S. Stackpole, Esq.,
U. S. District Recorder,
Ketchikan, Alaska;

Dear Sir:-

Herein find a paper signed by Mrs. Lelah Baronovich conveying to this Board all her right and title to a lot in Kasaan, Alaska, described therein, which I am sending to you for purpose of record.

If you will be good enough to advise Rev. L. F. Jones, of Juneau, Alaska, the amount of fee for recording this paper, he will remit promptly, or you can send a memorandum of the fee to the undersigned and check will be sent you from this City.

Yours truly,

Treasurer.

B/H
(Enclosure)

C O P Y

November 4th, 1912.

Rev. L. F. Jones,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Jones:-

You will find herein a copy of a letter I am sending this day to the United States District Recorder at Ketchikan, regarding the recording of the conveyance given by Mrs. Lelah Baronovich. If you are called upon for the recording fee, kindly pay same promptly, and I will send you a check to reimburse you.

I referred to Judge Gunnison the question, if in his opinion, the paper given by Mrs. Baronovich is sufficient to vest an undisputed title to the property conveyed to this Board, and he states that in so far as it applies against all persons except the United States, it is a good title, no patents having been issued to any one. The paper signed by Mrs. Baronovich simply releases any claim she may have on the property for the consideration named. We will therefore need eventually to apply to the government when the United States surveyors reach Kasaan, and have formally surveyed the land at that place, for a patent to this small piece of land.

It seems to me that we should have some data showing when Mrs. Baronovich occupied the lot in question and the circumstances under which she took possession. Before we lose sight of this matter, we need to place on file full data, so that when the Board makes its application to the government for the desired patent, we can furnish undisputable facts as to not only our occupancy of the lot and its improvements thereon, but also the record as regards the previous holders of the property.

Please communicate with Mr. Marsden and arrange for full information so far as obtainable.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. C. Olin

B/H Treasurer.
(Enclosure)

W h e r e a s, The Rev. James H. Condit, D.D., Representative of the Board in Alaska, has received and accepted an offer of seventy-five dollars ($75.00) for a house owned by the Board in Kasaan, Alaska, the sale of which is approved; It is hereby

R e s o l v e d: That the President be, and hereby is, authorized to execute a quit claim deed to the parcel of land located in Kasaan, Alaska, and more particularly described hereinafter and to attach the seal of the Board thereto.

Description of Property.

One lot, size fifty feet front and a hundred feet back, and one two-room one-story small cottage with two adjoining sheds known as the John V. Baronovich residence at Kasaan, Alaska. The said property is located on the front street about fifty feet from the high tide line and on the southwest corner of the front street and the beginning and only street leading up to the church.

Kasaan

November 4th, 1912.

Rev. L. F. Jones,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Jones:-

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Please communicate with Mr. Marsden and arrange for full information so far as obtainable.

Yours sincerely,

Treasurer.

B/H

(Enclosure)

C. L. THOMPSON.

CODES:
BEDFORD-McNEIL
A. B. C.

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
JOHN B. MARSHALL

GUNNISON & MARSHALL
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Nov. 18th, 1912.

Dr. H. C. Olin, Treas.,
Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York.

In re: Baronovich property
Kasaan.

My dear sir:-

The Rev. Mr. Jones, the representative of the Board here, called at the office to-day with your letter of Nov. 4th and asked me to read it and to write you my views with reference to the attempt to apply for a patent.

I have read the letter carefully and while you have not asked my opinion about the matter I beg to say, that I do not believe, first; that it would be worth the time and expense necessary to obtain a patent to this piece of ground purchased from Mrs. Baronovich, and second; I do not believe that the patent can be obtained for it. In any event, it is not worth while. The town of Kasaan is not of sufficient importance now and I should advise against any attempt to patent the ground. On this subject Mr. Jones and I agree perfectly and I am writing to you at his request.

So far as obtaining the data with reference to the occupancy of Mrs. Baronovich and her predecessors, Mr. Jones is writing to Mr. Marsden for information and as soon as that is obtained we will forward it to you.

In re KAKE PROPERTY: I have not heard from my letter to Mr. Wagner in reference to the Kake property.

Very truly yours,

GUNNISON & MARSHALL,
per Royal A. Gunnison

RaG BFB

In re Kasaan, Alaska.

November 18, 1916.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

Upon authority of the Board the President and Secretary have executed, and I now enclose, a quit-claim deed to the identical lot at Kasaan, Alaska, which we received from Mrs. Baronovich. The description contained in this deed will give you the data you ask for.

When the proceeds from this sale are received by you I think it would be well, in harmony with a recent suggestion I sent you, that you retain the amount as in part payment of your salary and authorize me to deduct that amount from your next remittance. In this way you will be saved the trouble of buying a draft and we, on the other hand, will be saved the cost of exchange on a local bank in the event that you propose to make payment that way.

Yours sincerely,

Treasurer.

Enclosure.

B-CM

Copy

December 21,1916

Mrs. Daniel Nelson,

Kasaan, Alaska.

My dear Mrs. Nelson:

I have your letter of the 15th inst. expressing your disinclination to purchase the Kasaan mission house because of fear that there might be complications with the former native owners.

Mr. Wangoner feels as I do about such a possibility, viz, that it is not at all likely that any misunderstanding can arise. The Board has sent me a quit claim deed made out to you, and signed by the officers of the Board, which I believe would be ample security for you against any native claim. In so far as it can the Board will defend its title. Of course it received only a quit claim deed and can give only a deed of the same character.

I presume that Mr. Marsden has the key to the house. At all events I have never had it. I will write to Mr. Marsden and ask him to leave the key with you upon his next trip to Kasaan. Inasmuch as we are not using the building and it is deteriorating by non use we will still offer it for sale. We may be able to dispose of it to some one of the natives if you do not care to take it.

Reciprocating your kind wishes for a pleasant Christmas season, and with best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

November 1st, 1923

Re: KASAAN, ALASKA Manse

Rev. F. R. Falconer,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Falconer:

Enclosed you will find an extract from a long letter which I have written to Dr. Young which immediately concerns you and which speaks for itself. I am sending you this in order that you may have opportunity to explain upon what ground you ignored instructions to send the proceeds from the Ketchikan manse sale to New York, and upon whose authority you took up the erection of the Kasaan manse in view of the specific statement made by Mr. Keeler, as per copy of his letter enclosed.

To say that you and others connected with this building thought this or that from what Mr. Keeler said in conferences had is not a reasonable or satisfactory explanation as it was well known that Mr. Keeler had no connection with, nor did he represent, this Board. I am at a loss to understand the action which has eventuated in the presentation of the bills which you forwarded in your letter of the 4th ultimo.

We do not have a dollar available to meet the bills which you sent in for the Kasaan Manse and as stated in the letter to Dr. Young, no remittance can be made until we first receive the money from the Board of Church Erection, and this latter depends upon the willingness of that Board to comply with the request that grants made to the three other buildings named in my letter to Dr. Young be annulled, and a like amount substituted for the Kasaan manse.

I may frankly say that, after consultation with Dr. Marquis and the other Secretaries of the Board, we reached the unanimous conclusion that we are not justified in retaining full confidence in the business judgment and financial management as shown in Alaskan affairs, of which this Ketchikan manse sale is an outstanding illustration. The damage having been done we must meet this situation as we best may, but we have now a definite illustration of the need for a closer supervision and better cooperation regarding the Board's affairs at the Alaska end.

I strongly hope that in the event we secure the $800. transfer for the benefit of the Kasaan manse that the obligations which you made in the name of the Board will not exceed the sum of $800. as that sum will be the maximum sum which we will have available for the Kasaan manse. Any amount in excess of that sum will have to be met locally.

Mr. Keeler of the Church Erection Board is not at all pleased with the manner in which his sympathy and interest in the work which he reviewed when in Alaska has been capitalized in a way to vitiate instructions previously given by the Board to which he and others are solely responsible, and now that the Church

Erection Board is about to be consolidated with the Board of Home Missions as a part of the new Board of National Missions, the officers of the latter Board will unquestionably, make provision for a closer control of funds committed to its care for building purposes.

It is not pleasant to be called upon to write such letters, but under the circumstances there is no alternative left us.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

Encs.

RECEIVED DEC 10 1923 TREASURER'S OFFICE

Presbyterian Mission
REV. F. R. FALCONER, MISSIONARY
P. O. BOX 215

Ketchikan, Alaska, Nov. 24, 1923

Kasaan Manse

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:-

Yours of the 1st Inst is before me, together with a copy of a letter to you from Mr. Keeler, dated Oct.18 and extract from your letter to Dr. Young, dated Oct. 26, regarding the Kasaan Manse, etc..

In your letter to me you want to know upon what ground I "ignored instructions to send the proceeds from the Ketchikan manse sale to New York." There was no intention on my part to ignore your instructions. The deal was consummated a few days before the arrival of Mr. Keeler from the north and when the agent handed the money to me I immediately placed it in my safety deposit box and on his arrival a few days later put into his hands $2700.00, receipt for which I have before me, dated aug. 18. While this was not in accordance with the letter of your instructions I certainly feel it was in accordance with the spirit of same and should clear me of any suspicion of attempting to frustrate those instructions. While it is true Mr. Keeler did not represent the Board of Home Missions it is equally true that he had considerable to do with the sale of the manse property and I can see nothing out of the way in my letting him bear the responsibility of forwarding the money to you especially as I did not feel like asking the bank for a draft on New York, as you suggested might be done.

While still in the bank Mr. Keeler discussed with me the disposition of the money, which I naturally thought he had authority to do as a representitive of the Board of Church Erection. He named over several items and finally jotted them down for me; they are as follows: Kas. 800 Ket. 400 Hoon, 500 Haines 200 Dougl. 100 I am not sure of the next item it looks like Aun. nat. 75. He put into my hands the $400.00 for the addition to the Mission building and though I cannot be positive as to the words used regarding the Kasaan building they were sufficient to impress on me that I could go ahead on that at once, which I did. I will add here that Dr. Young and the Committee at Juneau had nothing to do with the turn of events in connection with this matter; it is due to my failure to grasp the significance of your instructions; my not forwarding the money to you immediately on its receipt and later in my taking too much for granted when Mr. Keeler handed me $400.00 for the Ketchikan work, sent $500.00 to Juneau for the Hoonah manse and also to my misunderstanding him when we discussed the building at Kasaan.

In your letter to Dr. Young you accuse me as follows: "Not only this but he attempted to secure, through Mr. Keeler's assent, $300., more or less, with which to reimburse him for what he claimed was due him for manse rent, etc.". I would infer, from the wording of this and the words preceeding it, that this $300. referred to was part of the manse sale money and that I attempted to have Mr. Keeler pay me some of it as rent on my house. I cannot believe Mr. Keeler would intentionally wish to convey that impression to you. There is a misunderstanding at that point. I have no recollection whatever of any such proposition being made by me

or any one else; and it is so foreign to any feeling I have ever had in regard to the whole question of rent that I have no hesitation in saying no such attempt was made on my part. I don't think it was mentioned or even thought of. Mr. Keeler discussed with me frankly the question of the Board allowing me rent. He discussed it from various angles, such as an allowance of so much a month as rent; or a straight salary of so much which would include a reasonable amount in lieu of manse. I have searched my correspondence for something bearing on this question and find the following to Dr. Young, written soon after Mr. Keeler went north, dated July 13, 1923: "Now that the old manse building is sold I am wondering what the chances are of getting anything in the way of rent on our new building. Mr. Keeler thought it could be done. We have received $100.00 in rent from the old manse; $20.00 of that amount went for repairs, leaving about enough to pay the taxes on our own house for this year." That does not sound as though I was expecting anything from the sale money. Nor does the following: Miss Edmond, the agent who negotiated the sale of the manse property, was entitled to 5% - her regular charge- of the sale money, which would be $140.00. She wanted to give me $40.00 of that amount, which she had a perfect right to do and would have been nobody's right to know if I had accepted. She thought it would help me out in view of the fact that I would receive no more rent from the old manse. I did not accept it. She then gave the Board, at my suggestion, the advantage of that, deducting it from the amount of her regular commission. While this is a small matter I think it should help clear me of the suspicion of being underhand in my dealings with Mr. Keeler or the Board.

The more I study the whole matter the more clearly I see that I should have forwarded the money to you myself instead of waiting a few days to have Mr. Keeler do it. I alone am responsible for that and I am exceedingly sorry if my mistake has given Mr. Keeler the impression that we in Alaska have taken advantage of his sympathy and interest in the work.

Yours truly,

J. R. Falconer

February 16th, 1929.

Rev. Robert Joseph Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell,
Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

I have before me your letter of 31st ult. addressed to Mr. Brauer concerning the two following properties and inasmuch as the matters concern the Board of Home Missions and each needs to be cleared up before we can convey good and sufficient title to the Board of National Missions, I am making reply.

KETCHIKAN

The slight error in the Ketchikan deed can be readily corrected. I am changing the line referred to as adjoining the property of Radenbergh by substituting the word east for south and then adding the following:-

> "The above description as regards the east line bounded by the property of Geo. Randenbergh is the true one and is a correction of the error contained in the Quit Claim Deed given to the party of the first part by Charley Johnson in which the line bounded by the property of said Geo. Radenbergh is recorded as the south line by mistake."

KASAAN

A further search of our files reveals the fact that we received on November 2nd, 1917 $75. through Dr. Condit from "the sale of lot at Kasaan, Alaska" which sale referred to the lot on which the Baronovitch residence stood.

As Mr. Brauer undoubtedly sent you the deed which we executed to this property and you have been advised that this property was sold, I assume you still have the deed in hand and are awaiting further word from us before disposing of it. You had better return the deed to us if you still have it, or if possibly it has been sent for record then it should be recalled as the fact that there is no record of the sale to Mrs. Nelson or to Dan Nelson, gives us no right to make the transfer in any event, and besides the statement made by Mr. Falconer is undoubtedly dependable, viz: that Dan Nelson has since sold the property.

Now the question arises: on what land is the present church and manse building erected. The Board of Church Erection, in December 1923 made a grant of $708.77 on the manse building at Kasaan which amount was sent to Mr. Falconer on December 17th, 1923 in six checks in payment of a like number of bills rendered for the above aggregate sum. Therefore, what we need to know is what land we now have right to and upon which the manse building has been erected and a church building also, as we understand it.

Sincerely yours,

Treasurer

VB MGC